Drain upgrading in works

By KIM KOZLOWSKI
Press Staff Writer

To give some relief to Rawsonville Road residents with septic problems, the Washtenaw County and Wayne County drain commissions will begin an interim upgrading project of the North County Line Drain early next month.

Bids were received Wednesday for the project that is expected to cost $80,000 to $90,000. Since it is an intercounty drain, the cost will be divided between Wayne and Washtenaw counties, Augusta and Sumpter townships and Rawsonville Road residents.

A complete upgrading of the drain between Talladay and Willis roads is expected in conjunction with the both county road commissions beginning in three years.

But because some residents can't even flush their toilets, Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner Janis Bobrin said, "There are some health concerns so we really can't wait."

Five years ago, the Augusta Township Board of Trustees petitioned the commission under the drain code to look at problem, Clerk Joanne Ladd said.

"When (it) takes a half day for the bath tub to go down ... you have a big problem," Ladd said.

Bobrin said a series of public hearings were held. The accumulated sediments, the drain not being as deep as it should and other problems determined the need for restoration.

Drain commissioners from both counties and a representative from the state Department of Agriculture are overseeing the project. They had planned on restoring the drain to the

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an-run detention camps, there were new calls for military intervention in Bosnia — even from the Vatican.

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iraq renewed tensions over weapons inspections by asserting Thursday that a newly dispatched U.N. team would be prohibited from entering any government ministries.

JERUSALEM — Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer has temporarily halted the allocation of land for private construction in Jewish settlements, officials said. The move came as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is scheduled to travel to the United States for meetings with President Bush.

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Drains

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way it was when originally installed, back in the late 1800s.

But Road Commission officials said that would not meet current safety standards and with those included, the price climbed higher than originally planned.

"The cost went to about $1 million," said Ladd.

Since the Road Commission can receive federal funding and Rawsonville Road does not have a shoulder, the commission has agreed to use some of its funding to work on the safety of the road, along with the drain.

In three years, after enough funding has accumulated, crews will get rid of the deep ditches and steep slopes, widen the road, and turn the drain into a storm sewer along with resurfacing the road.

"No taxpayers' dollars will be involved (then)," Bobrin said.

However, the interim project — of which Bobrin said bids were lower than the expected —will be divided between the two counties and each county will contribute 5 percent of the cost, each township will pay 25 percent of the bill and residents living on the road will pick up the remaining 70 percent.

Residents' assessments will be divided by the amount of land they own and will be included on their winter tax bills over four years, Bobrin said.

On Aug. 31, a "day of review" is scheduled for people to see how much their assessments will be at the drain commissioners' office, 110 N. Fourth St. in Ann Arbor.

But Sumpter residents can expect their bill to be lower than Augusta's because they're planning on picking up 80 percent of the cost, Sumpter Deputy Supervisor Paul Johnson said.

He said because it will speed up the time getting the project going and also because Sumpter is using some of the revenues from the Wayne Disposal landfill.

Said Johnson, "It's up to the board to find ways to return these revenues to the citizens."

weather like this in some time and was puzzled because wheat prices should go up — but instead they have been dropping.

When the kernels are ripe and ready they can be harvested. But because of the rain, the kernels have abosorbed too much water, said Susan DeVoe, Washtenaw County executive director for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservative Service.

"The lower (wheat) quality lowers prices and farmers are docked all over the board," said extension agriculture agent Bill Ames from the Michigan State Cooperative Extension Service.

This year could be a disaster because many farmers borrow until harvesting, Wilkin said, but "you never know your losses until the harvest is done."

To protect against a poor year, farmers can purchase farm insurance. However, federal insurance is too high, Wilkin said, and he doesn't have any.

On Tuesday, the average price of a bushel of corn was $2.98, but it should cost about $4, said John Marion, owner of John Marion, Inc. grain elevator.

Farmers sell crops to Marion or store them with him until

Marion also said prices should actually be going up.

"I don't know why they're going down because the quality is not quite as good as it should be," he said.

On the other hand, "Corn looks real good, even though it is behind in maturity," Marion said.

However, corn prices are also at a low. On Tuesday a bushel of corn could be sold for $1.93, almost 40 cents from where the price should be at $2.30 or $2.40, he said.

Production this year compared to last year is tenatively

DeVoe said, but all

bring their own picnic baskets.

For information, call David Lynn at 483-8837 or Charlotte Petty at 835-7111.

Respite aides being sought

If you have extra time, you may want to become a respite volunteer in the Ypsilanti area.

A volunteer would offer help to the primary caregiver of homebound older adults. No household chores will be required or medical training needed.